

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly for baking a food item prepared to be baked on a stick with a batter, said baking assembly comprising:

a first heating element including a reservoir for receiving the batter and the food item therein, said reservoir defining a longitudinal axis;

a second heating element including a cavity complementing said reservoir;

a hinge securing said first heating element to said second heating element allowing said second heating element to pivot over said first heating element such that said reservoir and said cavity create a heating hollow to bake the food item and the batter; and

a stick retainer for receiving and retaining the stick in an orientation such that the food item is coaxial with said reservoir, said stick retainer including a recess for receiving the stick therein, a mounting frame for securing said stick retainer to said first heating element and a rotating mechanism for rotating the stick and the food item secured thereto about said longitudinal axis after the stick is retained in said recess.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 1–~~4~~ wherein said rotating mechanism includes a thumb wheel to rotate the stick and the food item secured thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly as set forth in claim ~~3~~ 5 wherein said stick retainer includes a snap flange disposed adjacent said recess for snapping the stick in said recess to maintain the stick inside said recess and allow the stick to be rotated within said recess.

7. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said stick retainer is coated with a non-stick coating to allow the stick to rotate with said recess.

8. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said stick retainer is fabricated of a non-stick material.

9. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly for baking a plurality of food items prepared to be baked with a batter, said baking assembly comprising:

a first heating element including a plurality of reservoirs, each receiving a portion of the batter and one of the plurality of food items therein, each of said plurality of reservoirs including a primary reservoir and a secondary reservoir in fluid communication with said primary reservoir wherein said primary and secondary reservoirs receive the batter therein;

a second heating element including a plurality of cavities complementing said plurality of primary reservoirs, and a plurality of extensions complementing said secondary reservoirs wherein each of said primary reservoirs and said cavities create an enclosure for the food item and batter when said second heating element and said first heating element are in abutting relation; and

a hinge securing said first heating element to said second heating element allowing said second heating element to pivot over said first heating element such that said extensions extend into said secondary reservoirs forcing the batter out of said secondary reservoirs and into each of said plurality of cavities to cover each of the plurality of food items with the batter as the food items and batter are baked;

an aperture defining a channel exposing said enclosure; and

a plurality of sticks each adapted to be secured in said channel prior to the closing of said second heating element over said first heating element, wherein each of said plurality of sticks includes a seal to seal said aperture of said enclosure to prevent the batter from flowing through said channel when said second heating element is being pivoted over said first heating element.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 9 ~~13~~ including a bar extending through said second heating element.

15. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said plurality of extensions is fixedly secured to said bar such that said plurality of extensions pivot about said bar between a retracted position inside said second heating element and an extended position out from said second heating element.

16. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 15 including a handle fixedly secured to each of said plurality of extensions for moving said plurality of extensions when said second heating element is pivoted over said first heating element.

17. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said first heating element is a first heating plate.

18. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said second heating element is a second heating plate.

19. (Currently Amended) A baking assembly for baking a plurality of food items prepared to be baked with a batter, said baking assembly comprising:

a base including a pivot;

a first heating plate ~~operatively~~ pivotally connected to said pivot of said base, said first heating plate including a plurality of reservoirs, each receiving a portion of the batter and one of the plurality of food items therein, and a plurality of channels;

a second heating plate ~~operatively~~ pivotally connected to said pivot of said base independent of said first heating plate, said second heating plate including a plurality of cavities complementing said plurality of reservoirs, ~~and a pivot connecting said first and second heating plates~~ pivotal about said pivot and each of said first and second heating plates being movable independently of the other and relative to said base such that said first and second heating plates pivot to said base for pivoting said first and second heating plates from a loading position wherein said first heating plate is parallel to said base and said second

heating plate is perpendicular to said base, a seal position wherein said second heating plate is closed over said first heating plate when said first heating plate is parallel to said base, and a baking position wherein said first and second heating plates are perpendicular to said base.

20. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 19 wherein each of said plurality of reservoirs and each of said plurality of cavities form a plurality of enclosures when said second heating plate abuts said first heating plate.

21. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 20 including an aperture defining a channel exposing said enclosure.

22. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 21 including a plurality of sticks each adapted to be secured in said channel prior to the closing of said second heating element over said first heating element.

23. (Original) A baking assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein each of said plurality of sticks includes a seal to seal said aperture of said enclosure to prevent the batter from flowing through said channel when said second heating element is being pivoted over said first heating element.

24. (Currently Amended) A skewer for holding a piece of food to be baked in a baking assembly having first and second heating plates defining a channel when the first and second heating plates are abutting each other, said skewer comprising:

a handle;

an elongated rod extending out from said handle coaxial thereto, said elongated rod receiving a piece of food thereover; and

a receiving portion extending between said handle and said elongated rod for being received by a stick retainer allowing said skewer to be secured in the baking assembly coaxially with the channel thereof, wherein said receiving portion includes a plurality of flats extending therealong between said handle and said elongated rod.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A skewer as set forth in claim 25 including a retainer for retaining the piece of food against said elongated rod.

27. (Original) A skewer for holding a piece of food to be baked in a baking assembly having first and second heating plates defining a channel when the first and second heating plates are abutting each other, said skewer comprising:

a handle;

an elongated rod extending out from said handle coaxial thereto, said elongated rod receiving a piece of food thereover; and

a seal extending out from skewer perpendicular to said handle and said elongated rod for creating a seal closing the channel when said elongated rod and the food are placed in the baking assembly such that said handle extends out therefrom.

28. (Original) A skewer as set forth in claim 27 including a retainer for retaining the piece of food against said elongated rod.